

# PRECEPTS

FOR

Christian Practice:

OR,

The Rule of the New  
*CREATURE*:

Containing Duties to bee daily  
observed by every Beleever.

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The third Edition, Corrected, In-  
larged, & now Published according to Order.

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Gal. 6. 16. *As many as walk according to  
this rule, Peace be on them and mercy, and  
upon the Israel of God.*

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# Precepts for Christian Practise, or the Rule of the New Creature.

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## Dutie I.

1. **B**E alwayes sensible of thy originall corruption, and consider how it inclineth thee continually to all evill, and indisposeth thee to any good; groane under it, and bewaile it, as *Paul* did, *Rom. 7. 24.*

Also take speciall notice of your actuall finnes, or daily infirmities, in thought, word and deed. Indeaour to make your peace with God for them before you goe to bed: which must bee done these foure wayes.

1. By repenting and confessing your finnes to God, working your heart to grieve and sorrow for them, by some such melting considerations as these.

*Precepts for Christian practise, or*

First, of Gods goodnesse to you.

2. Of the unreasonable and every way unprofitableness of sinne.

3. Of the great prejudice and damage that commeth to the soule by sinne, *John 1.1.9.*

2. By beleeving, and casting your self wholly on Christs righteousness for remission of sinne, and for reconciliation with God, *Rom. 3.22,24,25.*

3. By cleaving to Gods promises of pardon, and peace, *Isaiah 43. 25. Rom. 5.1.*

4. By waiting till the Lord shall speak to you, *Psal. 85. 8.*

*Dutie 2.*

Get your union with Christ, and interest in Christ cleared and confirmed to you daily more and more, that you are a branch in his vine, and a member in his body, *2 Cor. 13. 5.* This may be done three wayes.

1. By daily renewall of your faith in Christ, especially of that act of faith whereby the soule knits, or ties in self unto Christ, casts, or rouses it self on Christ for salvation. Cause your heart

in

in a solemne manner every day to act this part, or to put forth this primitive act of faith in the view of the whole soule. The daily exercise hereof will increase, and strengthen the divine habit of faith in the soule, and make the soule sensible of the very act of it. By frequent beleeving you shall feele at your very heart, that you do beleeve; so shall you have a witnesse in your self, that you are in Christ, *1 John 5. 10.*

2. By examining your heart upon what grounds you take Christ to be yours. The grounds are these five;  
 1. A sight and sense of your sins, as of the guilt, power, and punishment of them, and of your misery by them, *Mat. 9. 13.* 2. Your want of Christ seene, and felt at your very heart, to justify, sanctifie, redeeme, and save you, else you are utterly lost, and undone everlastingly, *Luke 19. 10.* 3. Gods free and generall offer of Christ to any that will take him by faith, *John 3. 16.* there are manifold promises to this purpose: And the grounds of all Gods offers and donations of Christ to the poore soule are free grace, rich

mercy, undeserved love, *Ephes. 2.4,5,7. Tit. 3.4, 5, 6.* 4 Christs sweet and gracious invitation of such to come to him as are weary of sin, *Matth. 11. 28.* to buy that have no money, *Isaiah 55. 1.* no worth, or desert in themselves. 5 As sinfull vile wretches as you are, have been sought of Christ, and found in Christ, as *1 Cor. 6. 9, 10, 11. 1 Tim. 1. 13.* Paul was a blasphemier, persecuter, and yet obtained mercy, and therefore why may not you? Thus the more cleerely you discern upon what grounds you take Christ, the more cleare is your title to Christ, evidenced to your owne soule.

3. By surveying and observing in what manner you take Christ daily. Which is, whether, First, you do wholly renounce all opinion and conceit of your owne righteousness and desert, *Mark 8. 34. Phil. 3. 7, 8, 9.* so that you come to Christ empty of your selfe, very vile, yea, nothing in your owne eyes, unworthy to receive him.

2. Whether you lay hold on Christ alone with an empty hand of faith, joyning nothing at all with Christ in the matter of salvation; as the

5,7. the holy Martyr at the stake cried out,  
*None but Christ, None but Christ.*

3. Whether you find the Father  
 28. drawing your heart after **Christ**, *Joh. 6.*  
 55. 44. which is in hungry and panting  
 ves. desires, that will never be satisfied with-  
 are, out him; so that the streame, both of  
 und your Judgement, *Phil. 3. 7, 8.* and  
 im. affections run towards him, *1 Cor. 2. 2.*  
 ecu- *Gal. 6. 14.*

4. Whether you take **Christ** as a  
 her- Lord to rule you, as well as a **Jesus** to  
 ore save you, *Col. 2. 6.* As one that is all in  
 hat all to you, your wisdom, your righte-  
 ore ousnesse, your sanctification and re-  
 den- demption, *1 Cor. 1. 30.* your spirituall  
 in food, *John 6. 48.* your Rayment, *Rom.*  
 ily. *13. 14.* your Strength, *Phil. 4. 13.* your  
 do life, *Gal. 2. 20 Col. 3. 3.*

5. Whether you seeke and waite for  
 and **Christ**, (out of the sense of your spiri-  
 so tuall want and penury) in every ordi-  
 our nance publike and private, Word, Sa-  
 our craments, Prayer, Meditation, Con-  
 n. ference; not as they are your owne  
 on works of sanctification, but as they  
 and are Gods Ordinances appointed of  
 with purpose for the manifestation and com-  
 as- munication of **Christ** to the soule.

Fre-

Frequent perusall hereof will cleare  
to you your manner of taking Christ,  
& that will evidence to you your right  
and title which you have in Christ  
Jesus.

*Dutie 3.*

Labour to draw and derive from  
Christ (by the powerfull attractive  
force of faith) spirituall abilitie suffi-  
cient for the day.

1. To performe all your duties, *Phil.*  
4. 13.
2. To exercise all your graces, *2 Cor.*  
3. 5.
3. To resist and overcome all your  
tentations and corruptions, *Rom.* 8. 37.
4. To undergoe all your trials, and  
afflictions, *Job* 1. 16.

Make your provision of grace and  
strength from Christ every morning,  
fetch from him so much as you shall  
have occasion to use all the day long;  
yea, and upon all occasions that fall  
out in the day, go to Christ still for the  
wisdom that must direct you, for the  
holinesse that must character you,  
for the shoulder which must beare your  
crosses, for that strength that must resist  
your tentations, and for abilitie to  
per-



learn to performe all duties as duties.  
 Christ, To this end act your faith daily in the  
 right promises of grace, and strength, as *John*  
*Christ* 1. 16. *Ezek.* 36. 26, 27. *Isaiah* 44. 3.  
*Zech.* 10. 12. these and the like promi-  
 ses are security given you by God, that  
 you shall receive grace in the use of the  
 ordinances, which are as the conduit  
 pipes or instruments of conveying the  
 same from Christ unto you.

*Phil.* This is the way and meanes to do  
 all in the strength of Christ, and to take  
 forth a great deale of Christ into your  
 soule, that not you, but Christ may  
 live in you, *Gal.* 2. 20.

*Dutie 4.*

Perform daily duties both in family,  
 and closet, (especially these three, of  
 Prayer, Meditation, Reading) and do  
 them with serious intention, heate of  
 affection, diligence and delight, *Jerem.*  
 48. 10. *Mal.* 1. 14. *1 Chron.* 21. 24. To  
 this end,

1. Watch to these duties, keepe the  
 heart in a good frame for them, undefi-  
 led with sin, untainted by the world,  
*Ephes.* 6. 18.

2. Take the fittest time for the per-  
 formance of them all; when you are  
 least

least dull and sluggish. Begin the day constantly with thoughts of God. *Psal. 57. 7, 8, 9.*

3. Bee very reall, serious, and substantiall with God in them, indeavour to feel all duties at your heart, inliving, inlarging, inflaming your affections.

These be the duties of most importance and consequent commoditie and comfort to the soule, because they properly aim at, and reach to the soules good, and celestiall happinesse, yea even to the training up of a soule for heaven, *Deut. 4. 29.*

*Dutie 5.*

Fortifie your selves every morning against your speciall lusts to which you are by nature most prone, or shall bee most tempted, bee it pride, passion, covetousnesse, &c.

This is done, 1. by Arguments and holy reasonings within your selves, drawn from the sad effects thereof, as disprofit, discomfort, disgrace, or the like, this will discover the unreasonablenesse of your sins, and make your soule ashamed of them. For example, shall I bee proud? then I am sure to fall, for pride goeth before destruction

on, and a haughty spirit before a fall, *Prov.* 16. 18. and God will count me for his enemy, for God resisteth the proud, *Jam.* 4. 6. Shall I be angry? if I let passion in, I cannot keepe Satan out, *Ephes.* 4. 26, 27. Againe, I shall grieve the holy Spirit of God, *Ephes.* 4. 30, 31. Shall I bee covetous? I cannot but bee very sinfull, sith the love of money is the root of all evill, *1 Tim.* 6. 10.

2. By pondering in your mind upon the precepts in Gods booke against your sins, *Prov.* 6. 23, 24. And on the judgments threatned or inflicted for them; as on proud *Herod*, *Acts* 12. 23. voluptuous *Dives*, *Luk.* 16. 23. churlish *Nabal*, *1 Sam.* 25. 38.

3. By applying the promises of mortification close to your hearts, as a plaister to the sore, for subduing your iniquities, *Mic.* 7. 19. *Rom.* 6. 14.

4. By drawing vertue from Christs death into the soule, which hath in it a killing force of sinne, *Rom.* 6. 4, 5, 6. *Phil.* 3. 10.

*Dutie 6.*

Get your hearts strongly fixed on God, by trusting on him, *Psal.* 112. 7. and

and submitting to him, *2 Sam.* 15. 26.  
*1 Sam.* 3. 18. against all the feares, cares,  
 doubts, trialls, afflictions of every day,  
 for sufficient to the day is the evill  
 thereof, *Mat.* 6. 34. To this end,

1. Be prudent to fore-see your perso-  
 nall trialls, and troubles, whatsoever  
 they are like to bee, *Prov.* 22. 3.

2. Goe hide, and lay up your self in  
 God, run unto his name, for God is a  
 rocke of habitation to which a poore  
 soule may continually resort, yea God  
 will give commandment to save all such  
 as thus doe come unto him, *Psal.* 71. 3.  
*1 Pet.* 4. 19.

3. Especially commit that very  
 thing to God, put into his hands, what-  
 soever you desire to keep, or feare to  
 lose, *2 Tim.* 1. 12. bee it life, libertie,  
 name, friends, maintenance, &c. What  
 you would have resolved, if it bee a  
 doubt, *Psal.* 37. 5. Or supplied, if it be  
 a want, *Prov.* 16. 7. Or removed, if it  
 be a crosse, *Psal.* 50. 5. And together  
 with the thing, cast all your care, feare,  
 sorrow, and trouble of mind about it  
 wholly on the Lord, *Matth.* 6. 31. *1 Pet.*  
 5. 7. *Psal.* 55. 22.

4. Renew your faith in those pro-  
 mises

6. *promises every day, which most concern*  
*your present estate; as in promises, 1 Of*  
*supplies, if you be in want, Psal. 34. 8. &*  
*37. 3. & 84. 11. Mat. 6. 30. 2 Of protecti-*  
*tion, if you be in danger, Psal. 34. 7.*  
*3 Of direction, if in doubt, Jam. 1. 5.*  
*4 Of deliverance, if in trouble, Job 5.*  
*19. 5 Of a good end, and sanctified*  
*use of all. Deut. 8. 16. Jam. 5. 11. Rom.*  
*8. 28. Heb. 12. 10.*

5. Labour to see Gods hand, *Psal.*  
*39. 9. to beleeve his love, Heb. 12. 6. Rev.*  
*3. 19. and with all meekenesse, and pa-*  
*tience resigne up your self wholly*  
*to his will in every affliction, Mat. 26. 39*  
*Dutie 7.*

Get, and keepe a savory relish conti-  
 nually of your christian priviledges,  
 wherewith you are invested as you are  
 new creatures in Christ: to wit,

1. Of your dignity, that you are  
 Gods sonnes, 1 *Job. 3. 1, 2. Christs bre-*  
*thren, Heb. 2. 11. heavens heires, James*  
*2. 5. partakers of a high, and heaven-*  
*ly calling, Heb. 3. 1.*

2. Of your liberty, that your are the  
 Lords freemen, *Cor. 7. 22. delivered out*  
*of the hands of all your enemies,*  
*1 Sam. 12. 11. 2 Kings 17. 39.*

3. Of

3. Of your victory, that you are al-  
through Christ more then Conquerors  
over all the world of Creatures, *1 Job.*  
5.4. of evils, of temptations, of perfe-  
cutions, *Rom. 8. 35. 37.*

4. Of your safety, that you have  
almighty God for your place of re-  
fuge, *Psal. 48. 2.* a hedge of providence,  
*Job. 1. 19.* a Guard of angels, *Psal. 91.*  
11. an inclosure of mercy, *Psal. 32. 10.*  
for Gods promise are writ of pro-  
tection for your defence, *Heb. 13. 5. 6.*

5. Of your riches as durable sub-  
stance in heaven, *Heb. 10. 34.* an in-  
corruptible inheritance, *1 Pet. 1. 4.*  
kingdome of glory, and a crowne of  
life; for you are heires of God, and co-  
heires with Christ.

6. Of your joy and pleasure, preci-  
ous for kind, and plentifull for mea-  
sure, *Psal. 16. 11.* peace un-conceivable,  
*Phil. 4. 7.* joy unspeakeable, *1. Pet. 1. 8.*  
the masters joy.

Get your harts affected with all these  
as being yours. Chew, and sucke them  
by serious Meditation, worke, and  
warme them on your hearts by close  
application, rubbing them into your  
affections, Oppose these your spiritu-  
all

are all priviledges to all your temporall  
 pressures, setting the one against the o-  
*Job.* ther; as your heavenly friends to your  
 earthly foes, your high dignity in  
*Christ* to your meaneſs in outward con-  
 dition, your wealth above to your want  
 below, your ſuture joys and reſt to your  
 preſent troubles, and ſorrows. This  
 will make you not onely patient under  
 the afflictions of this life, *Rom.* 12. 12.  
 but alſo joyfull in them, *Rom.* 5. 3. and  
 triumphant over them, *1 Cor.* 15. 55.  
 Thus did the Apoſtle, *Rom.* 8. 18. *2 Cor.*  
 4. 17. & 6. 8. 9. 10.

These will provoke to duty, *1 Peter*  
 2. 9. 11. 12. and preſerve from fainting,  
*2 Cor.* 4. 16. 17. and from trouble of  
 heart, *John.* 14. 1, 2.

Dutie 8.

Sanctifie God in your heart daily,  
*1 Pet.* 1. 15. make him your feare, *Iſaiab*  
 8. 14. your love, and delight, *Pſal.* 34. 4.  
 To this end,

1. Have often high and honourable  
 thoughts of God, ſerious meditations  
 of his glorious Attributes, as his wiſe-  
 dome, power, truth, mercy, juſtice, &c.  
 and worke them upon your hearts,  
 that they may Eccho to them with

B. pure,

pure, and melting affections. This will increase and nourish up the divine nature in you, 2 *Pet.* 1. 4.

2. Labour to be affected with all the workes of God, as first to behold, and admire the wisdom of God in the creatures, *Psal.* 136. 5. 2 To see, and tast Gods goodnesse in every mercy, *Psal.* 34. 8. 3 To take notice of, and tremble at the anger, and displeasure of God in all his Judgements, *Psal.* 119. 120. *Habb.* 3. 16. 4 That you may answer the dispensations of Gods providence with futable dispositions; let your hearts carry a counterpane in affection to all Gods actions, *Isay* 26. 8.

3. Wrestle with God by praying, and beleeving for an heart of flesh, *Ezek.* 36. 26. which will receive impressions from the very thoughts of God in the mind.

4. Apply promises of particular affections: as first of love, *Dent.* 30. 6. 2 Of feare, *Jer.* 32. 40. 3 Of delight, *Isa.* 58. 14. There is heat, and life in these promises, sufficient to quicken and warm thy dead and frozen affections.

*Dutie 9.*

Get a publike spirit, first, to mind  
the



the things of Jesus Christ, as naturally as if they were your own, *Phil. 2. 20, 21.* Secondly, to looke on the things of others, and preferre Jerusalems welfare before your chiefest joy, *Psal. 137. 5, 6.* and the Gospels liberty before your own, as *Paul* did: and thirdly, to mourn for the sins of the times, as the Godly in *Jerusalem* did, *Ezek. 9. 4.* Especially lay to heart,

1. The Churches misery, when Gods Ordinances goe downe, and superstition goeth up, when Gods cause and side are put to the worst, when any thing falls out, which gives a blow to Religion, or proves an impediment to the Gospel. If the Arke be taken, call your comforts *Ichabods*, *1 Sam. 4. 2.*

2. The afflictions of *Joseph*, *Amos 6. 6.* The sufferings of Gods servants, whether Ministers or people. O sympathize with them, *Heb. 13. 3. Neb. 1. 4.* labour to feel their troubles and sorrows at your very hearts; and pray earnestly for them, as the Church did for *Peter*, *Act. 12. 5.*

3. The signes of the times, *Mat. 16. 3.* which hypocrites cannot discern, (though they bee well versed in the face

of the Skie) to wit, the sad symptomes, and presages of approaching Judgements, as, First, the commonnesse of sin; for all sorts transgresse in all kinds of open sinfulness with a high hand against the light of nature, and the meanes of grace, *Ezek. 12. 3.* 2 Contempt of Gods Ordinances, misusing of his Ministers, *2 Chron. 36. 16.* 3 Departure of Gods glory from his house, *Ezek. 9. 3.* 4 Incurigiblenesse after former, and under present judgements, *Lev. 26. 14.* to the end of the chapter. 5 The death of many righteous men, *Isaiah 57. 1.* and the carrying away of others to hiding places. 6 The vials of Gods wrath poured on the Churches beyond the Seas, *Ier. 17. 12. 14.* 7 An inundation of spirituall judgements, as a spirit of errour, superstition, apostasie, &c. which doe commonly end in temporall plagues, *Isa. 6. 10.* 11.

Now the Holy ghost is a publike spirit breathing and acting in all the members of the mysticall body of Christ: therefore, first, pray for it, *Luke. 11. 13.* Secondly, beleve for it, *Gal. 3. 14. Ezek. 36. 37.*

Dutie 10.

Get your hearts weaned daily from the world, and from those creatures and comforts in it, which are dearest and sweetest to you. As wife, children, friends, goods, liberty, house, life. This Christ requires of those that follow him; *Luke 14. 26, 27. Mark 10. 29, 30.* this will prepare you either to suffer, or to die when God calls you to it. To this end consider seriously;

1. That these things cannot satisfy your heart, when you have enjoyed them to the full; *Eccles. 4. 8. & 5. 10.* you soone grow weary of them, or glutted with them, so that you desire some new delights, or more of the old, or some over againe.

2 Nor can they sanctifie you, but will expose you oft to many lusts, *1 Tim. 6. 9, 10.* tentations, distractions, yea to a spirit of the world, and they will hinder you from following of Christ, *Mat. 19. 22.*

3 Nor can they save you from Gods wrath, from death or judgement, *Prov. 11. 4.*

4 The wicked whose portion is onely in this world, have often the greatest share.

share of them, *Psal.* 17. 14. *Job.* 21. 7.  
to 14.

5 They serve onely for this life, whilst we are on this side of the grave; they shall not be the least Ingredients into our celestiall happinesse. When we do come to be happy in heaven, we shall stand in no need of food, rayment, physicke, marriage, &c. *Matth.* 22. 30. for we shall be like the Angels of God in heaven, wee shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more, *Rev.* 7. 16. wee shall live by the al-sufficient Spirit of God, which never needs refreshing; wee shall bee clothed with long white robes of immortality, *Rev.* 7. 9. In a word, when wee come to heaven the place of Gods Habitation, we shall enjoy the face, and beatificall presence of the most glorious Jehovah, blessed for ever, as an object, wherein all the powers of our soules will bee satisfied with ineffable delight; and God will be unto us everlastingly all in all, *1 Cor.* 15. 28.

**FINIS.**



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